

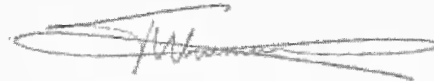
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

NO. R. 4538

22 March 2024

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1995**BARGAINING COUNCIL FOR THE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY OF THE WESTERN CAPE: EXTENSION TO NON-PARTIES OF
THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FEE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT**

I, **THEMBELANI WALTERMADE NXESI**, Minister of Employment and Labour, hereby in terms of section 32(2) of the Labour Relations Act, 1995, declare that the Collective Agreement which appears in the Schedule hereto, which was concluded in the **Bargaining Council for the Furniture Manufacturing Industry of the Western Cape**, and is binding in terms of section 31 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995, on the parties which concluded the Agreement, shall be binding on the other employers and employees in that Industry with effect from the second Monday after publication of this Notice and shall remain in force for a period of 12 months.



MR TW NXESI, MP
MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR
DATE: 09/03/2024

UMNYANGO WEZEMISEBENZI NABASEBENZI

R.

USUKU:

UMTHETHO WOBUDLELWANO KWEZABASEBENZI KA-1995**BARGAINING COUNCIL FOR THE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY OF THE WESTERN CAPE: UKWELULWA
KWESIVUMELWANO SENKOKHELO YOKUHLANGANYELA SELULELWA
KULABO ABANGEYONA INGXYENYE YASO**

Mina; **THEMBELANI WALTERMADE NXESI**, uNgqongqoshe Wezemisebenzi Nabasebenzi, ngokwesigaba 32(2) soMthetho Wobudlelwano Kwezabasebenzi ka-1995, ngazisa ukuthi isiVumelwano phakathi kwabaqashi nabasebenzi esitholakala kwiSheduli yesiNgisi exhunywe lapha, esenziwa yi **BARGAINING COUNCIL FOR THE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OF THE WESTERN CAPE** ngokwesigaba 31 soMthetho Wobudlelwano Kwezabasebenzi ka 1995, esibopha labo abasenzayo, sizobopha bonke abaqashi nabasebenzi kuleyoMboni kusukela ngoMsombuluko wesibli emva kokushicilelwa kwalesiSaziso kuze kube isikhathi esiphela emuva kwezinyanga ezilishumi nambili.



MNUMZANE TW NXESI, MP
UNGQONGQOSHE WEZEMISEBENZI NEZABASEBENZI
USUKU: 09/03/2024

SCHEDULE
BARGAINING COUNCIL for the FURNITURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
OF THE WESTERN CAPE

BARGAINING LEVY COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Labour Relations Act 1995 (Act No 66 of 1995)(as amended),
made and entered into by and between the

Cape Furniture Manufacturers Association
(hereinafter referred to as the "employers" or the employers' organisation"), of the one part,

and the

National Union of Furniture and Allied Workers of South Africa
(hereinafter referred to as the "employees" or the "trade unions"), of the other part
being the parties to the Bargaining Council for the Furniture Manufacturing Industry of the Western
Cape

CHAPTER 1

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

- 1) The terms of this Agreement shall be observed in the Furniture, Bedding, Upholstery and Curtain Manufacturing Industry defined in Paragraph A hereunder in the Province of the Northern Cape and Western Cape excluding the Magisterial Districts of George, Knysna, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn :-



Paragraph A

“Furniture, Bedding, Upholstery and Curtain Manufacturing Industry” or **“Industry”** means, without in any way limiting the ordinary meaning of the expression, the industry in which employers and their employees are associated for the manufacture, either in whole or in part, of all types of components of furniture, furniture, bedding, curtains, upholstery and/or re-upholstery and will, inter alia, include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Furniture

Manufacturing, assembling, repairing, staining, spraying, polishing, re-polishing, making loose covers and/or cushions, wood machining, veneering, woodturning, carving, assembling, painting, spraying, cutting, edging, drilling, wood bending, laminating and/or papering/foiling, of board.

“Board” means any type of wood or wooden or related product or any other substitute material amongst others being: laminated board, fibre board, chip board, block board, veneer board, pressed board.

Furniture manufacturing will also include the manufacturing, repairing, polishing, assembling, cutting, drilling, edging, re-polishing, staining, spraying either in whole or in part of: kitchen cupboards, attached wall cupboards, built-in cupboards, free standing cupboards, bars or built-in bar counters, cane, wicker or grass furniture, wireless or television cabinets, draw and draw fronts, doors and cupboard doors irrespective of size, bathroom cupboards, cupboard tops and furniture for tea-rooms, restaurants, offices, churches, schools, libraries, hotels, other educational institutions, conference centres and theatres.

(b) Bedding

The manufacturing, assembling, repairing, covering, re-covering of mattress bases, mattresses, spring mattresses, overlays, bolsters, pillows, cushions for studio couches, spring units, box-spring mattresses, sleeper couches and studio couches.

“Studio Couch” means an article of furniture, which is designed for seating and for conversion into a double bed or two or more beds and of which the frames are constructed mainly of metal and the seating and/or sleeping surfaces consist of mattresses and/or cushions.

(c) Upholstery

The upholstering or re-upholstering of any furniture, or item of furniture, bedding, seating, pelmets, mattress bases, foam mattresses and/or cushions.

(d) Curtain making

The making, altering, repairing and hanging of curtains and/or blinds made mainly of fabric, wood, cane, wicker, reed or grass.

Curtain making includes window treatment, cutting of rails and rods, fitting of pelmets, curtains, blinds and associated products.

- 2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clause (1), the terms to this Agreement shall:-
- (a) apply only to employees for whom minimum wages are prescribed in the Council Main Collective Agreement and to employers of such employees;
 - (b) apply to Learners in so far as the terms are not inconsistent with the Skills Development Act, 97 of 1998, or any contract entered into or any condition fixed under the Skills Development Act, 97 of 1998

2. PERIOD OF THIS AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall come into operation:-

- 1) (a) in respect of parties to this Agreement, on the date of signature;
 - (b) in respect of non-parties, on such date as fixed by the Minister of Employment and Labour in terms of Section 32 of the Act.
- 2) This Agreement shall remain in force for a 12 month period, from the date fixed by the Minister.

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 3.1 A separate Collective Bargaining Levy Agreement is hereby agreed to and the provisions of the Labour Relations Act (Act 66 of 1995) (as amended) (herein referred to as the Act), where applicable, shall apply to this Agreement. The object of this Agreement is to ensure that all employers in the scope of the Council's Main Collective Agreement, who receive the benefits of collective bargaining, contribute towards its costs.
- 3.2 This Agreement shall be subject to the respective party being representative, as required by Section 25 of the Act, of employees and employers who are covered by the Main Collective Agreement of the Bargaining Council as verified by the Department of Labour from time to time.



4. DEFINITIONS

Any expressions used in this Agreement which are defined in the Labour Relations Act, 1995, shall have the same meaning as in that Act and any reference to an Act shall include any amendments to such Act, and unless the contrary intention appears, words importing the masculine gender shall also include the feminine gender and vice versa further, unless inconsistent with the context-

"Act" means the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act 66 of 1995) (as amended);

"Council" means the Bargaining Council for the Furniture Manufacturing Industry of the Western Cape;

5. BARGAINING LEVY

- 5.1 An employer who is not a member of the representative employers' association party to the Council's Main Collective Agreement, and who are not compelled to become members of the aforementioned employers' association, but are eligible for membership thereof must make a monthly Collective Bargaining Levy contribution, payable to the Council.
- 5.2 For the purposes of this agreement, "representative employers' association" means, the same as in section 25 of the Act, a registered employers' association or two or more registered employers' associations acting jointly, whose members are a majority of the employers or whose members employ the majority of employees in the scope of the Main Agreement.
- 5.3 This Agreement is binding on all employers who are registered in the scope of the Council and who are subject to the Council's Main Collective Agreement and who are not members of the representative employers' association party to this Agreement, namely the Cape Furniture Manufacturing Association.
- 5.4 A prescribed Bargaining Levy of R200.00 (**two hundred rand**), equal to the CFMA fee is payable only by an employer who is not a member of the representative employers' association.
- 5.5 The prescribed Collective Bargaining Levy payable by an employer in accordance with clause 5.4 above, must be paid by the employers concerned to the Council by the 15th day of each month following the month along with all other required employer contributions and deductions made from their employees' wages. The prescribed Collective Bargaining Levy



- received by the Council must be paid by the Council on a monthly basis to the Cape Furniture Manufacturers Association.
- 5.6 An employer shall together with the Collective Bargaining Levy also submit to the Secretary of the Council, at the same time, a monthly Council return form reflecting the amount of the Collective Bargaining Levy.
- 5.7 The Secretary of the Council shall deposit all moneys received in terms of clause 5.5 into a bank account of the Council.
- 5.8 The prescribed Collective Bargaining Levy shall be equivalent to or less than the lowest amount of the employers' association subscriptions payable by any of the members of the Cape Furniture Manufacturing Association.
- 5.9 The Secretary of the Council must transfer all moneys received in respect of Collective Bargaining Levy into a separate bank account administered by the party employers' association at month end
- 5.10. Despite sub-clause 5.9, a conscientious objector may pay the prescribed amount payable in respect of Collective Bargaining Levy into a fund administered by the Department of Labour.
- 5.11 No Bargaining Levy may be:
- 5.11.1 paid to a political party as an affiliation fee; or
 - 5.11.2 contributed in cash or kind to a political party or a person standing for election to any political office; or
 - 5.11.3 used for any expenditure that does not advance or protect collective bargaining and the socio-economic interests of employers in the scope of this Council.
- 5.12 The provisions of sections 98 and 100 (b) and (c) of the Act apply, read with the changes required by the context, to the separate account referred to in sub-clause 5.9.
- 5.13 Any person may inspect the auditor's report, in so far as it relates to an account referred to in sub-clauses 5.9.
- 5.14 The Registrar must provide a certified copy of, or an extract from, any of the documents referred to in clause 5 to any person who has paid the prescribed fees.
- 5.15 A person, organisation, employer or trade union that alleges that the employers' association party to this agreement is no longer a representative employers' association as envisaged in

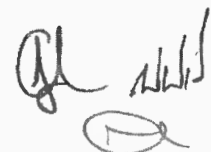


clause 5.2 it must give the employers association party written notice of this allegation, and must allow the same employers association party 90 calendar days from the date of the notice to prove that they are representative employers association .

- 5.16 If, within the 90-day period, the employers association party fails to prove that they are a representative employers association, the person, organisation, employer or trade union making such allegation must give the employers' association party who are party to this agreement notice of their intention to request the Minister of Labour to withdraw the extension of this agreement to non-party employers in the Industry.
- 5.17 If the extension of this agreement to non-party employers in the Industry is withdrawn by the Minister of Labour, the provisions of sub-clause 5.7 and 5.9 shall apply until all the bargaining levies due up until the date of withdrawal of the extension of this agreement, have been received and paid out in accordance with sub-clauses 5.7 and 5.9.

6. UNPAID BARGAINING LEVY

- 6.1 Should any amounts due to the Council in terms of this agreement not be received by the Council by the 15th day of the month following the month in respect of which the amounts are payable, the employer shall forthwith be liable for and be required to pay interest on such amounts or on such lesser amounts that remain unpaid at a rate which does not exceed the maximum rate as prescribed by the Prescribed Rate of Interest Act, 1975 (Act 55 of 1975)(as amended), calculated from the 16th day of the month until the day upon which the payment is actually received by the Council and reflects in the Council's bank account. The Council shall be entitled at its absolute discretion to waive payment of such interest or part thereof in any individual instance.
- 6.2 In the event of the Council incurring any costs or becoming obliged to pay any collection costs and commission by reason of the failure of the employer to make any payment on or before the applicable due date, the employer shall then also be liable to forthwith pay all such collection costs and commission to the Council and the Council shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to allocate any payment received from such an employer firstly to such costs, collection commission and interest, and thereafter to the reduction of the unpaid Collective Bargaining Levy.



- 6.3 Disputes about the interpretation, application or enforcement of this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedure as described in the Council's Main Collective Agreement.

7. EXEMPTIONS

- 1 Any person bound by this Agreement may apply for exemption.
- 2 The authority of the Bargaining Council is to consider applications for exemptions and grant exemptions.
- 3 The *Bargaining Council* must determine its exemptions policy and process all exemptions applications in terms of this policy.
- 4 All applications for exemption shall be made in writing on the appropriate application form, obtained from the *Bargaining Council*, setting out relevant information, including:
 - (a) The provisions of the *agreement* in respect of which exemption is sought;
 - (b) The number of persons in respect of whom the exemption is sought;
 - (c) The reasons why the exemption is sought;
 - (d) The nature and size of the business in respect of which the exemption is sought;
 - (e) The duration and timeframe for which the exemption sought;
 - (f) The business strategy and plan of the applicant seeking the exemption;
 - (g) The applicant's past record (if applicable) of compliance with the provisions of the Collective Agreement, its amendments and exemptions certificate;
 - (h) The recorded views expressed by the trade union or workforce itself during the plant level consultation process; and
 - (i) Any other relevant supporting data and financial information the *Council* may prescribe from time to time.
- 5 An exemption application in respect of a term or provision in a *Collective Agreement*:



- (a) Concluded in the *Council* that applies throughout the *Industry* must be considered by an exemptions body appointed by the *Council*;
- 6 The Bargaining Council shall decide on an application for exemption within 30 days of receipt.
- 7 Upon receipt of an application by the Bargaining Council, it shall immediately refer the application to the exemptions body which may, if deemed expedient, request the applicant to attend the meeting at which the application is considered, to facilitate the deliberations.
- 8 An exemption body appointed by the *Council* may request additional information from an applicant applying for exemption.
- 9 In scrutinising an application, the Exemption Body or the Independent Exemptions Body will consider the details of the application, the views expressed by the trade union or workforce, affected employers, any other representations received in relation to the application, and the factors and criteria as listed in clause 15 below.
- 10 The *Secretary* must advise the applicant in writing of the decision of the exemptions body within 15 days from the date of the decision, failing which the *Bargaining Council* is deemed to have refused the application for exemption.
- 11 In the event of the exemptions body granting, partially granting or refusing to grant an application, the applicant shall be informed for the reasons for the decision and have the right to appeal in writing on the appropriate appeal application form against the decision to the Independent Body, established by the Bargaining Council within 21 days from the date of being informed of the outcome.
- 12 In terms of section 32(3)(e) of the Act, the Bargaining Council must establish an Independent Body to hear and decide as soon as possible any appeal brought against the exemptions body's refusal of a non-party's application for exemption from the provisions of a collective agreement by the exemptions body or withdrawal of an exemption by the Bargaining Council.



- 13 The Independent Body shall hear and decide and inform the applicant and the *Bargaining Council* as soon as possible and not later than 30 days after the appeal has been lodged against the decision of the exemptions body.
- 14 No representative, office-bearer, or official of a trade union or employers' organisations party to the Bargaining Council, may be a member of, or participate in the deliberations of, the Independent Body established by the Bargaining Council.
- 15 When considering an application, the Exemption Body or, the Independent Body whichever the case may be must consider, in addition to clause 9, the following:
- (a) Whether the granting of the exemption or appeal will prejudice the objectives of the *Bargaining Council* or contravene the provisions of any labour legislation or *Collective Agreements*;
 - (b) The circumstances prevailing in the *Industry* as a whole likely to be affected by the application and / or the interest of the industry regarding unfair competition, collective bargaining, potential for labour unrest and increased employment;
 - (c) The nature and size of the business in respect of which the application is made;
 - (d) Whether the duration of the exemption or appeal is for a limited or specified period;
 - (e) Any representations made by the employers likely to be affected by the application and interest of employee's as regard exploitation, job preservation, sound conditions of employment, possible financial benefits, health and safety of workers and infringement of basic rights;
 - (f) Whether the business strategy and plan presented by the applicant demonstrates that the granting of the exemption or appeal will make a material difference to the long-term viability of the business in respect of which the exemption or appeal is sought;



- (g) Whether a refusal to grant an exemption or appeal will result in undue financial hardship to the applicant, financial instability, impact on productivity, future relationship with the employees' trade union and operational requirements;
 - (h) Whether the granting of the exemption or appeal will undermine collective bargaining and be likely to cause undue financial hardship to the employers affected;
 - (i) Whether the granting of the exemption or appeal will impact negatively on parity agreements;
 - (j) Whether the granting of the exemption or appeal will impact negatively on local competitors who are complying with *Collective Agreements*; and
 - (k) Whether the employees or their representatives have been consulted and their views recorded, and / or any agreement reached between the applicant and the workforce.
 - (l) Any other relevant supporting data and financial information as prescribed by the Bargaining Council and supplied by the applicant.
- 16 In the event of the Independent Body granting, partially granting or refusing the grant the appeal, the applicant shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the decision within 21 days from the date of the decision.
- 17 The decision of the Independent Body is final and binding upon the applicant and the *Bargaining Council*.
- 18 If an exemption or appeal is granted or partially granted, the Exemptions Body or the Independent Body, shall issue a certificate, signed by the Secretary, containing the following particulars:
- (a) The full name of the applicant(s) or enterprise concern;
 - (b) The trade name;
 - (c) The provisions of the Agreement from which exemption or appeal has been granted;
 - (d) The period for which the exemption or appeal shall operate;

- (e) The date of issue and from which day the exemption or appeal shall operate;
 - (f) The condition(s) of the exemption or appeal granted; and
 - (g) The area in which the exemption or appeal applies.
- 19 An employer to whom a certificate has been issued shall at all times have the certificate available for inspection at the workplace.
- 20 The Secretary must maintain a register of all exemption and appeal certificates granted, partially granted or refused.

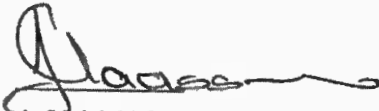
8 ENFORCEMENT OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

- 1 Despite any other provisions of this Agreement, the Council may appoint one or more persons and may request the Minister of Labour to appoint such persons as designated agents in terms of Section 33 (1) of the Act to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with this Agreement.
2. In the event of non-compliance with this Agreement, a designated agent may secure compliance by –
- (a) publicising the contents of this Agreement.
 - (b) investigate complaints.
 - (c) conduct inspections.
 - (d) issue a compliance order ; or
 - (e) adopt any other means the Council may have approved of; and
 - (f) perform any other function which is conferred on or imposed on the agent by the Council.
- 3 In the event that non-compliance prevails after the issuance of a compliance order in terms of sub-clause 2 (d) above, the agent must:
- (a) submit a report to the Secretary of the Council, specifying that compliance had not been achieved.
- 4 Upon receipt of such report, the Secretary of the Council shall –
- (a) Appoint an arbitrator from the list of arbitrators supplied by the CCMA to arbitrate the matter; or



- (b) take such steps as deemed necessary to give effect to any agreement reached after the compliance order was issued in resolving the matter.
 - (c) An arbitrator appointed in terms of this Clause shall have all the powers assigned to an arbitrator as contemplated by the Act, including but not limited to the charges and penalties as further contemplated by Section 33A of the Act read with the applicable Regulations.
- 5 The Secretary shall make application to certify the arbitration award or settlement agreement, whichever applies, as order of the Labour Court.
- 6 A designated agent appointed under Section 33 (1) of the Act, shall in addition to the powers referred to in that Section, have the powers as assigned to designated agents as set out in Schedule 10 of the Act, read with the changes required by the context.

Agreement signed at Bellville on this 9th day of November 2023.




J. CLAASSEN

Chairman of the Council



W. DYERS

Vice-Chairman of the Council



N. ABRAHAMS

Secretary